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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 71/208, 72/1 and 72/196. It contains a summary of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in their efforts to counter transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, as well as to prevent crime and reinforce criminal justice systems, thus strengthening the rule of law and contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It includes information on the status of adherence to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The report also addresses emerging policy issues and contains information on the Office's cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system. It contains references to developments relating to the governance and financial situation of the Office and recommendations aimed at enhancing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

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I. Introduction

1. In implementing the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continued to promote justice, the rule of law, crime prevention and reform of criminal justice institutions as important aspects of the United Nations development agenda, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. During the reporting period, UNODC continued to implement global, regional and country programmes supporting the ratification and implementation of the international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, as well as to promote the application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

3. The present report provides information on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and reflects emerging policy issues and possible responses, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/196. The report also includes information on efforts to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system to respond to trafficking in persons, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/1. Furthermore, the report includes an analytical section entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption", in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/208.

II. Action taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

4. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held its twenty-seventh session from 14 to 18 May 2018.

5. During its thematic discussion, the Commission considered the topic "Criminal justice responses to prevent and counter cybercrime in all its forms, including through the strengthening of cooperation at the national and international levels".

6. On the topic of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Commission, at its twenty-seventh session, recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution entitled "Enhancing the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and a draft resolution entitled "The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals" for adoption by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session. During the deliberations on the item entitled "Contributions by the Commission to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/1, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", it was highlighted that the Commission was the lead policymaking body in the United Nations system on crime prevention and criminal justice issues and, as such, could play an important role with regard to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the monitoring of progress therein.

7. Also during its twenty-seventh session, the Commission reviewed the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/192. In that resolution, the General Assembly had decided that the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress would be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the

rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda" and had approved the provisional agenda for and the workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress. Also in that resolution, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner and invited Member States to be actively involved in that process. The draft discussion guide was made available to the Commission for its consideration at its twenty-seventh session, and for finalization shortly after the session.

8. At the same session, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice" for adoption by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session. In that draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide, inter alia, to hold the Fourteenth Congress in Kyoto, Japan, from 20 to 27 April 2020, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 19 April 2020. The resolution would also provide a framework for the further substantive and procedural preparations for the Fourteenth Congress.

9. The resolutions adopted by the Commission during its twenty-seventh session focused on preventing and combating trafficking in persons, addressing the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies, international cooperation against trafficking in cultural property, and restorative justice (see E/2018/30-E/CN.15/2018/15).

III. Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

10. Following the endorsement of the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/174, UNODC launched the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration: Towards the Promotion of a Culture of Lawfulness. The activities under the Global Programme provide direct support to the legislative, operational and policy-related work undertaken by Member States to successfully achieve the Goals and targets contained in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

11. The Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration continued to contribute to strengthening judicial integrity and preventing corruption in the justice system, enhancing the rehabilitation and social reintegration of prisoners and promoting a culture of lawfulness among children and young people through education and sports. At the time of reporting, more than 5,400 stakeholders, including policymakers, judges, academics, teachers, sports coaches and children and young people from over 160 countries have benefited from capacity-building, and 23 countries have received direct, country-specific technical assistance through the programme.

IV. Action taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in thematic areas

12. UNODC, in implementing the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, continued assisting States in their response to the interrelated issues of transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, as well as to emerging forms of crime such as cybercrime and connected issues, and in their

efforts to prevent crime and strengthen criminal justice systems, with a view to improving inter-agency coordination and cooperation with various external partners.

13. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goal 17, specifically addressing the need for partnerships, has provided a reinvigorated push towards increased inter-agency cooperation. UNODC assists Member States in implementing cross-sectoral, whole-of-government initiatives to address specific issues identified as critical for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 and others related to UNODC mandates.

14. UNODC actively cooperated within the United Nations Development Group to advance the implementation of the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review and shape the Secretary-General's reform agenda of the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Accordingly, UNODC formulated standards and methodologies for time-bound and results-based programmes and projects, and trained field staff to ensure that the UNODC programme portfolio was aligned with Member States' efforts to attain the targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals.

15. UNODC deepened its engagement on such issues as cybersecurity, illicit financial flows and urban safety (in line with the New Urban Agenda), in close coordination with partner entities within the United Nations and other international organizations.

A. Enhancing international cooperation and responses to transnational crime

1. Transnational organized crime

16. At the time of reporting, there were 189 States parties to the Organized Crime Convention; 173 to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; 146 to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; and 115 to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

17. In 2017, UNODC supported Japan and Fiji in becoming parties to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. Japan accepted the Organized Crime Convention, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol. Fiji acceded to the Convention and the Protocols thereto. In 2018, UNODC provided pre-accession support to Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. UNODC also provided advisory services to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chad, Germany, Japan, the Niger and Sri Lanka to support their possible accession to and ratification of the Firearms Protocol. Several of those countries informed UNODC that they were in the process of completing their accession.

18. UNODC continued to support the working groups of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Working Group on International Cooperation held its ninth meeting from 28 to 31 May 2018, the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance held its eleventh meeting from 28 to 31 May 2018, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons held its seventh meeting from 6 to 8 September 2017 and its eighth meeting on 2 and 3 July 2018, the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants held its fourth meeting from 11 to 13 September 2017 and its fifth meeting on 4 and 5 July 2018 and the Working Group on Firearms held its sixth meeting on 2 and 3 May 2018. The second and third meetings for the purpose of defining the specific procedures and rules for the functioning of the review mechanism for the United Nations Convention

against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto were held from 30 October to 1 November 2017 and from 21 to 23 March 2018.

19. UNODC has consistently invested in developing knowledge on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto. Guides on drafting legislation to combat wildlife crime and falsified medical products will be finalized soon. The Office expanded the knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) (http://sherloc.unodc.org) to include new databases and functionalities and it also expanded the Anti-Money-Laundering International Database. Under the Education for Justice initiative, a component of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, UNODC was in the process of finalizing university modules for lecturers on organized crime, firearms, cybercrime, trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

20. With regard to regional cooperation, UNODC continued to support the development of regional judicial cooperation networks, including the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime, the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus, and the Great Lakes Judicial Cooperation Network.

21. UNODC continued to provide support to the Asset Recovery Network of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa, and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of the Caribbean. UNODC also promoted regional and interregional cooperation under the "networking the networks" initiative to enhance networking between existing regional and international law enforcement organizations. Through the Law Enforcement TrainNet initiative, UNODC continued promoting a network of law enforcement training and educational institutions.

22. Through its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC provided capacity-building assistance to 88 countries in nine subregions. Such assistance included tailor-made training for judicial authorities, financial intelligence units, law enforcement authorities and customs, immigration and border control agencies. Cryptocurrency investigation training continued, with a view to strengthening understanding of cryptocurrencies and skills for national and international collaboration. The Office also expanded the Anti-Money-Laundering International Database, and the website of the International Money-Laundering Information Network was updated on an ongoing basis.

23. Within the framework of various global, regional and country programmes, UNODC continued providing technical and advisory support for criminal intelligence-led policing, special investigative techniques and cross-border, regional and international cooperation.

24. The UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme continued to work with Member States to enhance border control measures and to facilitate legitimate trade. To date, more than 70 port control units in sea ports, dry ports and airports have been established in 49 Member States, resulting in the seizure of more than 220 tons of cocaine, 5.1 tons of heroin, 68.4 tons of cannabis, 1,573 tons of precursors (drugs and explosives), 347 kg of psychotropic substances, 321,697 kg of tramadol, 701 cases of counterfeit goods, 102 shipments of goods made from illicitly acquired flora and fauna, 43 containers of goods and commodities associated with weapons of mass destruction or the means to produce weapons of mass destruction, and 1,300 shipments of miscellaneous goods, in addition to more than 620 million cigarettes, 900 kg of new psychoactive substances and objects or assets related to fisheries crime.

25. UNODC implemented the programme entitled "Strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (2016–2020)", in partnership with the

International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and Transparency International, with the financial support of the European Union. In the reporting period, 12 countries were assisted under the programme through, inter alia, the implementation of 60 capacity-building activities, the fostering of regional and interregional cooperation and the enhancement of the institutional integrity and accountability of criminal justice institutions. The programme also enabled the launching of four operations, including an interregional operation involving 13 countries that was led by intelligence officials and culminated in the seizure of more than 55 tons of drugs, the dismantling of 20 clandestine laboratories and more than 350 arrests.

2. Countering trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants

26. The paragraphs below provide information on efforts to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system to respond to trafficking in persons, in line with the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the political declaration on the implementation thereof.

27. The Office continued to manage the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, by enabling protection and direct assistance through specialized non-governmental organizations to victims worldwide, in particular those fleeing from armed conflict or in the context of mass refugee and migration flows.

28. UNODC continued to coordinate the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. In 2017, the Group produced a number of policy outputs, including three issue briefs, and continued to contribute to intergovernmental processes, for example, by providing written input to the negotiations on a global compact on safe, orderly and regular migration. In May 2018, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/195, UNODC convened the first-ever meeting of the Group at the principal level to discuss cooperation and coordination in preventing and combating trafficking in persons. The meeting demonstrated the importance that United Nations agencies and entities, Member States and other relevant stakeholders attached to the Group as the main United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanism focused on trafficking in persons. At the meeting, the Group adopted several strategic and procedural decisions that gave it a solid foundation for its continued development as a robust inter-agency mechanism.

29. In 2017, UNODC published an issue paper on the concept of financial or other material benefit in the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol. In *Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases: Case Digest*, also published in 2017, recurring evidential issues were set out, for the first time, through analyses of cases from around the world. The publication is aimed at equipping practitioners with solutions to respond to these issues. The UNODC Human Trafficking Case Law Database continued to grow, with the addition of 98 new case briefs from 27 jurisdictions, bringing the total to 1,486 cases from 101 jurisdictions and two supranational courts. Similarly, the Smuggling of Migrants Knowledge Portal, launched in May 2017, allows for the collection and analysis of literature, legislation and case law on migrant smuggling and contains details of 765 cases from 39 jurisdictions.

30. UNODC continued to prioritize support for the implementation of the two Protocols and provided specialized expertise on legislation, criminal justice responses, international cooperation, data collection, research, prevention, awareness-raising, and protection of and support to victims. From July 2017 to March 2018, UNODC, under its global programmes against trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, organized or contributed to 33 technical assistance activities, reaching more than 80 Member States at the national and regional levels and providing training to over 926 practitioners in all regions. UNODC organized, for example, a legislative drafting workshop supporting the Government of Maldives in developing new legal instruments to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants. A mock trial on trafficking in persons cases was organized in Jordan.

31. With a view to enhancing international and regional cooperation in investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons, UNODC, inter alia, co-organized a regional workshop for national anti-trafficking coordinators from countries in South-Eastern Europe that was focused on sexual exploitation and national referral mechanisms. UNODC also organized the first specialized regional workshop focusing on document fraud investigations in the context of smuggling of migrants for 28 border officials from six countries in Southern Africa.

32. Within the framework of the Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, UNODC completed 13 consultative assessments on national responses to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (in Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Lao Democratic People's Republic, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa and Ukraine), adopted 12 country plans and delivered 88 activities.

3. Measures against trafficking in firearms

33. UNODC, through its Global Firearms Programme, continued to support Member States in countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, in accordance with the requirements of the Firearms Protocol. In doing so, it followed an integrated, five-pillar approach that addressed those phenomena through legislative and policy development; preventive and security measures; a coherent criminal justice response; international cooperation and information exchange; and monitoring of illicit firearms flows.

34. The Office provided tailored technical assistance to more than 10 countries from Africa, Latin America and the western Balkan region and supported more than 45 countries through regional activities. UNODC consistently advocated for the proactive initiation of parallel investigations on potential trafficking cases, thereby identifying trafficking trends and patterns as the basis of a coherent response to the phenomenon.

35. UNODC joined INTERPOL and WCO in the planning, organization and implementation of a simultaneous law enforcement operation to counter trafficking in firearms (Operation Africa TRIGGER III). The Office's role and contribution were focused mainly on promoting coherent criminal justice responses and encouraging the initiation of criminal investigations into trafficking in firearms. In that regard, it supported the participation of prosecutors from the Member States involved in the Operation.

36. To support Member States in creating an evidence base on the links between firearms trafficking and other crimes, the Office's global firearms data-collection initiative, launched in May 2018, allows for the collection of, among others, quantitative and qualitative data on the criminal context in which firearms are seized.

B. Curbing corruption

37. At the time of reporting there were 186 parties to the Convention against Corruption. A high-level debate to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention was held on 23 May 2018, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/196.

38. The seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held in Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017. At that session, the Conference adopted eight resolutions and one decision. The Implementation Review Group held its eighth session from 19 to 23 June 2017 and its resumed eighth session on 7 and 8 November 2017. The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption held its eighth meeting from 21 to 23 August 2017, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery held its eleventh meeting on 24 and 25 August 2017, and the sixth open-ended

intergovernmental expert meeting to enhance international cooperation under the United Nations Convention against Corruption was held on 6 and 7 November 2017.

39. The first cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption was nearing completion, with 162 executive summaries finalized at the end of the reporting period. Work on the second cycle was advancing, with eight executive summaries finalized.

40. UNODC continued to provide a broad set of tailored technical assistance activities at the global, regional and national levels to meet the growing demands of States to prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate corruption offences, including through its network of field-based anti-corruption advisers. UNODC assistance included the development of knowledge products, legislative drafting, policy development, strengthening institutions, building capacity, raising awareness and supporting networks of practitioners. Under the Education for Justice initiative, a component of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, 14 university modules for lecturers on ethics and integrity were developed and 14 university modules for lecturers on combating corruption are currently being developed.

41. The online directory of competent national authorities (available at www.unodc.org/compauth_uncac/en/index.html) contains, inter alia, information on central authorities for mutual legal assistance in 129 States parties.

42. At the country level, 63 countries received assistance for their implementation of the Convention during 2017.

43. UNODC continued to implement joint projects with other entities, including the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Global Compact and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, facilitating asset recovery and returning such assets to legitimate owners, in particular to countries of origin, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

44. As mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/208, the following paragraphs contain information on preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of proceeds of corruption, as well as asset recovery.

45. Accurate data on frozen, confiscated and returned assets remain scarce. According to a study conducted by the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), OECD members increased the total assets frozen in the period 2010–2012 (compared with the period 2006–2009), and more assets were returned to developing countries. A huge gap remained, however, between the results achieved and the billions of dollars estimated stolen from developing countries each year.

46. The first thematic report on the implementation of chapter V (Asset recovery) of the Convention (CAC/COSP/IRG/2018/5) showed that the most prevalent challenges in implementation are related to article 52 of the Convention (Prevention and detection of transfers of proceeds of crime) and pertain to the identification of politically exposed persons, reporting of foreign interests, emergency freezing powers for law enforcement, identification of beneficial ownership and the prohibition of shell banks. The second most challenging article in terms of implementation is article 54 (Mechanisms for recovery of property through international cooperation in confiscation), which poses problems related to insufficient provisions on confiscation, seizure and freezing and the lack of non-conviction-based confiscation. The most prevalent good practices relate to article 55 of the Convention (International cooperation for purposes of confiscation), in particular flexibility of mutual legal assistance laws, close cooperation and consultation, and use of the Convention as a

legal basis for returns. As the number of finalized country reviews on chapter V of the Convention grows, this analysis will become more comprehensive.

47. The results of the review of implementation of chapter IV (International cooperation), as described in the study entitled *State of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption: Criminalization, Law Enforcement and International Cooperation*, are also relevant to asset recovery. The analysis was based on 156 completed country reviews and identified a number of challenges related to limited resources and technical expertise, the limited use of a number of mechanisms envisaged in the Convention, and weaknesses in the legal framework.

48. UNODC, including through the StAR Initiative, which celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2017, continued to provide case-related and general capacity-building support to 30 countries. Knowledge products on beneficial ownership, the management of seized, confiscated and returned assets and compensation for social damage of bribery were being developed.

49. The StAR Initiative also supported the Global Forum on Asset Recovery, held in Washington, D.C., from 4 to 6 December 2017, which was hosted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The Global Forum provided a platform for over 80 bilateral and multi-jurisdictional meetings on significant asset recovery cases, and for the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Nigeria, Switzerland and the World Bank relating to the return of $321 million of recovered assets.

50. In order to support States in their efforts to produce data for the measurement against the Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework adopted by the General Assembly, UNODC, together with the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victims of Crime, Public Security and Justice of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and UNDP started a corruption measurement initiative. UNODC and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) also hosted meetings on the preparation of a manual for States to report on illicit financial flows.

C. Preventing and countering terrorism

51. UNODC continued to assist Member States in becoming parties to the 19 international instruments related to counter-terrorism, with a view to strengthening criminal justice systems in their efforts to counter terrorism, including with regard to newly emerging challenges.

52. To further knowledge development on terrorism prevention, the Office has, to date, produced over 50 tools and publications. In the reporting period, a revised module on the universal legal framework against terrorism was launched and a training curriculum on terrorism prevention for Mali and the Niger was developed. Under the Education for Justice initiative, a component of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, 14 university modules were developed for lecturers on counter-terrorism. As part of a joint initiative with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, UNODC published the *Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons*. UNODC is also engaged in supporting prison staff in countries including Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Somalia, in preventing the spread of radicalization in prison settings.

53. The Office increased the volume of its technical assistance delivery at the regional and country levels. Such assistance addressed a broad range of specialized areas, including returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, terrorism financing, improvised explosive devices, attacks on critical infrastructure and the use of the Internet and social media for terrorist recruitment and the incitement of terrorist acts. UNODC has mainstreamed human rights and gender aspects into all of its counter-terrorism programmes.

54. With regard to regional initiatives in terrorism prevention, the Office advanced the implementation of its initiative on strengthening the legal regime against foreign terrorist fighters in the Middle East and North Africa and in South-Eastern Europe. Achievements included the production of a manual for South-Eastern Europe and the establishment of a multi-agency task force for cooperation on terrorist cases in the Middle East and North Africa. The regional judicial platform for the Sahel countries and the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors continued to demonstrate the efficiency of connecting relevant counterparts from participating States. Further, UNODC, together with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, launched assistance to Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria to develop common approaches for the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons associated with Boko Haram.

55. Further regional work has been implemented in Central Asia, where UNODC was contributing to strengthening national and regional frameworks through the development of a regional network on preventing violent extremism. The Office is also introducing community risk panels in selected pilot communities in Central Asia to support terrorism prevention at the national level.

56. In the Middle East and North Africa, several countries, including Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen, benefited from specialized national and regional counter-terrorism assistance.

57. In sub-Saharan Africa, UNODC continued enhancing its assistance to Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria. These countries established and strengthened their specialized counter-terrorism units.

58. In South and South-East Asia, UNODC has significantly expanded its technical assistance. In cooperation with INTERPOL, the Office has been strengthening border control through the extension of the INTERPOL I-24/7 Global Police Communication System. Further, UNODC and Pakistan jointly launched the multi-year project entitled "Pakistan's action to counter terrorism, with special reference to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa".

59. Since 2013, UNODC has been working with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate since 2013 to implement a global initiative on building effective central authorities for international judicial cooperation in terrorism cases. In addition, UNODC, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the International Association of Prosecutors have been collaborating to develop guidelines on obtaining electronic evidence in counter-terrorism cases.

60. UNODC continued its efforts to strengthen the capacity of States to suppress crimes related to the financing of terrorism. To that end, the Office developed six new courses and started delivering assistance on drafting proposals to list suspected terrorists for the sanctions regime pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999). UNODC also brought together relevant States and organizations to develop strategies to disrupt charcoal trade and heroin trafficking, both of which are reportedly linked to the financing of terrorism.

61. The UNODC-INTERPOL-WCO Airport Communication Project provided technical assistance to joint airport interdiction task forces, as a result of which the task forces intercepted a number of travelling foreign terrorist fighters in the Sahel and in the Caribbean. In addition, the Office developed a training curriculum for front-line officers at airports on identifying and interdicting suspicious passengers, including foreign terrorist fighters.

62. UNODC has developed strong partnerships with national parliaments and parliamentary associations. With the Inter-Parliamentary Union, UNODC has commenced a multi-year initiative on the role of parliaments in preventing and countering terrorism. Further, UNODC enhanced its partnerships and ensured greater coordination and coherence with entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, in particular with the new United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. The Office chaired two working groups on countering the financing of terrorism (with

the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism), and on legal and criminal justice responses to terrorism (with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate), and actively participated in the work of all 12 thematic groups of the Task Force.

D. Preventing crime and strengthening criminal justice systems

63. UNODC continued to support countries such as Afghanistan, Bahrain, Libya, Pakistan, Panama and Uzbekistan in their efforts to reform their criminal justice systems in line with the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. In Kenya, UNODC continued to support the reform of the national police service by providing training on police services delivery, including human rights, gender mainstreaming and anti-corruption strategies, and helped to strengthen the Independent Policing Oversight Authority. UNODC also collaborated with UNDP and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia to train 200 public prosecutors, 20 judges and 150 police officers on sexual and gender-based violence and on criminal and civil procedures, investigation techniques and traditional dispute resolution.

64. In the area of penal reform, UNODC supported Indonesia in the development of a national action plan on the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons. An assessment in the Gambia led to recommendations on prison overcrowding and law enforcement reform. The Office continued to promote the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and provide technical assistance on prison-based rehabilitation programmes in a number of countries, including Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, El Salvador, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia, Nepal, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Zambia.

65. In the area of crime prevention, UNODC launched the pilot activities of its "Line Up, Live Up" programme, a programme for trainers and physical education teachers aimed at strengthening the life skills of at-risk young people, in Brazil, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa and Tajikistan. In cooperation with other partners, the Office promoted sport for prevention and launched a small grants scheme in Brazil to support non-governmental organizations. The Office has also supported the Government of Myanmar in the development of a national crime prevention strategy.

66. With regard to judicial integrity, and in the framework of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, the Global Judicial Integrity Network was launched in April 2018. The Network is a unique platform that supports members of the judiciary and judges in strengthening judicial integrity and preventing corruption in the judicial system.

67. With regard to preventing violence against women, UNODC supported the police force in Myanmar in enhancing its capacity to prevent and respond to cases of violence against women, and developed a handbook and a training curriculum on that subject. In Egypt, UNODC supported authorities in ensuring a victim-centred approach and the fair and effective prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women and girls. Also in Egypt, UNODC supported the National Council for Women in maintaining a hotline for women who are victims of violence, and provided training to its staff. In Namibia, UNODC conducted training of trainers for police officers, prosecutors and victim service providers on effective responses to gender-based violence, resulting in a national training programme being rolled out under the leadership of the Office of the Prosecutor General.

68. In relation to legal aid, UNODC supported the development and dissemination of the National Legal Aid Strategy in Nigeria, as well as a guidance manual on enhancing pro bono legal services and a paralegal training curriculum. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNODC supported a mobile legal aid project in two provinces. The Office also supported the revision of the draft law on legal aid in Viet Nam, focusing on strengthening access to justice for women and children, and

started implementing pilot activities under the *Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence* in Egypt, Guatemala, Pakistan and Viet Nam, in cooperation with UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and WHO. Together with the Ministry of Justice of China, UNODC organized a cross-regional seminar in Guangzhou, China, bringing together experts from China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam to exchange experiences on holistic legal aid, equal access and quality of services.

69. Regarding violence against children, 133 practitioners were trained in Colombia on measures to prevent and respond to violence against children, including the use and application of diversion and restorative justice for children. Technical assistance in areas related to justice for children was also provided to Cabo Verde, Jamaica and the Niger. UNODC, as a member of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, has promoted initiatives to strengthen the role of the justice system in preventing and responding to violence against children, including through the development of an implementation handbook for the strategy document *INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children*.

70. The *Handbook on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: the Role of the Justice System* was published by UNODC in 2017. UNODC supported the Niger and Nigeria in their efforts to protect the rights of children recruited and exploited by Boko Haram. As a result, 80 children deprived of their liberty for terrorism-related offences were released and handed over to the child protection system in the Niger, and training was provided to justice and child protection professionals, including defence lawyers, on the treatment of child victims of violence and crime. UNODC also built strategic partnerships with key international actors in the areas of counter-terrorism and child rights, including members of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group of the Secretariat.

E. Data collection, research and trend analysis, and international cooperation in the forensic field

1. Data collection, research and trend analysis

71. As mandated in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, data were collected on patterns and flows of trafficking in persons for the fourth edition of the biennial UNODC *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, to be released in the fourth quarter of 2018. The *Global Study on Smuggling of Migrants 2018* was published in June 2018 and contained information about major smuggling routes and their characteristics.

72. Within the framework of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, UNODC hosts the world wildlife seizure database, which contains data collected under the annual illegal trade reporting requirement under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Those data provide a solid basis for the *World Wildlife Crime Report*, which was published for the first time in 2016. The second edition of the report will be published in the second quarter of 2019.

73. UNODC continued to support Member States in improving statistical data on crime and criminal justice. The new, annual United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems was launched in 2017, after a comprehensive review with experts, Member States, the Organization of American States, UN-Women and Eurostat. The new instrument meets the requirements of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and addresses new data requirements for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators for which UNODC is the custodian.

74. UNODC worked closely with co-custodian agencies and partners such as WHO, UNDP, the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered

Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, UN-Women and UNCTAD to support the global and national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. UNODC is the custodian for global-level reporting on 15 Sustainable Development Goal indicators, jointly with other agencies in some cases, and assists States in building their capacity to identify, track progress and report on security, justice and the rule of law, as reflected under Goal 16 (on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels). The Office provided data and information for the global reporting on established indicators. Specifically, it started to develop a standardized methodology to measure the indicator on illicit financial flows and developed a new, global data-collection system for global reporting on that indicator.

75. At the national level, UNODC also developed and promoted the "multiple systems estimation" technique to estimate the number of unidentified victims of trafficking in persons (in relation to Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.2.2), together with partners, including academia. UNODC and the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children of the Netherlands undertook joint research in 2017 to estimate the prevalence of trafficking in the Netherlands. By applying the "multiple systems estimation" technique, an estimate was generated of the total number of victims in the Netherlands per year, disaggregated by sex, age, citizenship and form of exploitation. The findings led to immediate policy discussions and responses, in particular relating to measures for the prevention of trafficking in girls for sexual exploitation. UNODC is collaborating with several other countries to carry out similar studies.

76. The Office also provided technical assistance in the form of regional and national training in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the western Balkans, where it continued to support the establishment of a statistical framework to measure organized crime.

2. International cooperation in forensic sciences

77. UNODC continued its efforts to enhance the capacity of forensic science institutions worldwide through the development and promotion of forensic best practices, from the crime scene to the court room. The Office provided forensic reference materials and standardized training tools on crime scene investigation, security document examination and the safe handling and disposal of chemicals to law enforcement officials, laboratory experts and members of the judiciary.

78. UNODC continued to promote regional forensic science cooperation through supporting regional forensic networks such as the Asian Forensic Sciences Network and the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes.

F. Work undertaken to address specific forms of crime

1. Piracy

79. UNODC continued supporting coastal States from the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Horn of Africa, West Africa, Gulf of Guinea and Caribbean regions in their efforts to tackle piracy and other maritime crimes through legislative reforms and capacity-building for maritime law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Legal and law enforcement advisers were placed in relevant national and regional agencies. UNODC also strengthened regional and cross-regional coordination and cooperation among maritime law enforcement and criminal justice institutions and facilitated the establishment of networks and dialogue groups.

2. Cybercrime and the use of new information and communications technologies to abuse and exploit children

80. The Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime is a unique platform within the United Nations system dedicated to discussions on crime prevention and criminal justice responses to cybercrime. UNODC provided secretariat services for its fourth meeting, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 April 2018. At that meeting, the Group adopted its workplan for the period 2018–2021 and discussed legislation and frameworks for combating cybercrime, as well as criminalization issues.

81. With regard to the prevention of online child sexual exploitation, UNODC provided capacity-building assistance to empower police officers, prosecutors and judges to tackle darknet marketplaces and secure digital evidence. UNODC also worked directly with Internet service providers to help them block child abuse material. Furthermore, the Office's prevention work with children and caregivers was aimed at minimizing the risk of the children becoming victims of online sexual exploitation and abuse.

3. Trafficking in cultural property

82. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to States aimed at strengthening their crime prevention and criminal justice responses to trafficking in cultural property. The Office continued the dissemination of related tools to, inter alia, facilitate international cooperation against trafficking in cultural property.

83. UNODC continued to provide country-specific technical assistance. In October 2017, jointly with the French Embassy in Islamabad and UNESCO, UNODC organized a technical meeting on trafficking in cultural artefacts and its links with transnational organized crime in Pakistan. UNODC also contributed to a joint Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) assessment visit to Cyprus in June 2017, which was followed by a capacity-building seminar held in Larnaca, Cyprus, in November 2017. Also in November 2017, UNODC contributed to a workshop organized by OSCE and Italy on combating cross-border trafficking in cultural property in the Mediterranean region, held in Vicenza, Italy, for experts from 14 countries, as well as to a UNESCO capacity-building workshop held in Rome on the fight against trafficking in cultural property that was attended by officials from Montenegro and Serbia.

4. Environmental crime, including trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora

84. Under the Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime, UNODC provided legislative assistance, training courses and advisory services with a view to strengthening the capacity of States to prevent, investigate and prosecute wildlife crime. In particular, regular and sustained law enforcement advisory support helped to strengthen national capacities. UNODC worked to address the dearth of parallel investigations into the associated crimes of money-laundering and corruption by supporting wildlife management and enforcement authorities in integrating capacities to manage corruption risks. Extensive work was also under way to build prosecutorial and judicial capacity while research, awareness-raising and policy advice continued to be delivered by UNODC at the national, regional and international levels.

85. UNODC has been involved in the global coalition advocacy campaign to end the illegal trade in wildlife. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and in partnership with the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the influential campaign has won global recognition awards and has reached nearly 4.5 million people to date, with 11,500 signing the zero-tolerance pledge.

86. UNODC is a member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products, which brings together the United Nations entities and conventions most closely involved in tackling illicit trade in wildlife and forest products, namely the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, the Department for Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, UNDP and UNEP. The Task Force organized the Africa-Asia Pacific Symposium on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Combat Wildlife Crime, which was held in Bangkok on 4 and 5 July 2017.

V. Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1. Information on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

87. The standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC continued to play an important role as a forum for discussions in areas including strategic and budgetary matters, evaluation, oversight, programme development and implementation, the financial situation of the Office and strengthening human resources governance.

2. Information on strategic planning

88. UNODC is working within the United Nations Secretariat on streamlining programme planning and budgeting processes to improve delivery of the Organization's mandates.

89. UNODC continued its efforts to strengthen the culture of results-based management, also with a view to linking its work to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including by incorporating links to specific targets of the Sustainable Development Goals in programme documents and annual results-based reports.

3. Information on integrated programming

90. UNODC continued to implement an integrated programming approach focusing on the incorporation of global programme components into regional and country programmes, and interregional cooperation, to respond to Member States' priorities in a sustainable manner. In 2017, UNODC launched two country programmes, for Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Indonesia, and two new global programmes, on gender equality and the empowerment of women and on alternative development and sustainable livelihoods.

91. As of December 2017, UNODC was managing 19 regional and country and 43 global programmes.

4. Information on evaluation

92. The Independent Evaluation Unit provides independent information that is key for accountability of the resources entrusted to UNODC by Member States. In addition, organizational learning for more efficiency and effectiveness is triggered by evaluation results and related knowledge products. The United Nations Evaluation Group peer review concluded that considerable progress had been made, but that there was also a need for more investment to strengthen accountability in UNODC.

93. The Independent Evaluation Unit completed three gender-responsive global programme evaluations and presented recommendations to the Executive Director, senior management and Member States. In addition, the Unit quality-assured and

published evaluations of 18 projects and supported national evaluation capacity-building, contributing to the review mechanism of the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. Information on the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

94. Pledges to UNODC for voluntary contributions totalled $361 million in 2017, of which $182 million were pledged to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and $179 million to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. In descending order, Colombia, the United States, the European Union, Japan and Germany were the largest donors, contributing approximately 75 per cent of the total pledges.

95. The financial situation of UNODC remains vulnerable, with the continuous decline in unearmarked (general-purpose) funds predicted to reach less than 1 per cent of the total income in the biennium 2018–2019. Such low levels of unearmarked funding represent a key challenge to the strategic and effective implementation of the mandates of UNODC, putting a strain on management, coordination and normative functions. UNODC continues to count on the support of Member States to ensure predictable funding for activities under the general-purpose funds.

96. The consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 completed the transition to the funding model of full cost recovery.

97. In the biennium 2018–2019, UNODC will actively participate in the Secretary-General's reform of the Organization and will continue the implementation of major initiatives to strengthen accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of programme execution. Such initiatives include Umoja (the Secretariat-wide enterprise resource planning system), the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, the framework of engagement of external parties and enterprise risk management.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

98. The overriding priorities of the United Nations are currently preventing conflicts and crises, and mobilizing efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Work on drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice has a crucial role to play in this context.

99. Through ratifying and acceding to the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, the Convention against Corruption and the 19 international legal instruments related to counter-terrorism, Member States have taken vital steps to ensure and enhance their ability to prevent and combat these crimes. These instruments have grown rapidly towards becoming a universally binding legal framework to counter terrorism. I therefore call upon Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, the Convention against Corruption and the 19 international legal instruments related to counter-terrorism.

100. It is vital that States parties to the above-mentioned international instruments make all efforts to adopt legislative and other measures to fully implement them and relevant United Nations resolutions. I encourage Member States that are parties to those instruments to promote and strengthen international cooperation in criminal matters and use them as a legal basis for such cooperation.

101. In this context, I encourage all Member States to continue supporting the ongoing process of establishing the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and to actively participate in and support the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

102. I also encourage Member States to adopt and implement comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice reform initiatives based on the United Nations

standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and other international standards and to include crime prevention and criminal justice reform objectives in their national plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and related policy planning instruments.

103. I call upon Member States to find innovative solutions to emerging policy issues by, inter alia, increasing the level of joint operations at sea and international cooperation in maritime crime cases, strengthening their responses to cybercrime and strengthening investigations and prosecutions related to wildlife crime and strengthening participation in regional judicial networks and the use of liaison magistrates or officers to facilitate international cooperation.

104. I urge Member States to review and enhance their efforts to identify victims of trafficking in persons, including among migrant populations, and ensure access to readily available and appropriate assistance and support for victims.

105. I also urge Member States to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime, money-laundering, corruption and, in some cases, terrorism, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, by using an integrated, multidisciplinary approach, such as through promoting and supporting reliable data collection, research and, as appropriate, intelligence- and analysis-sharing to ensure effective policymaking and interventions. The technical and methodological tools, trend analyses and studies developed by UNODC are paramount to enhancing knowledge on crime trends and assisting Member States in designing appropriate responses regarding areas of the Sustainable Development Goals that relate to the mandate of UNODC, and I recommend that Member States support UNODC in that respect. I call upon Member States to strengthen the implementation of forensic best practices, including the development of guidelines, reference materials and training tools and the provision of quality-assurance support, and to establish and strengthen regional forensic science networks.

106. UNODC stands ready to provide technical assistance to Member States on a full range of crime prevention and criminal justice efforts. I urge Member States to provide the Office with adequate, predictable and stable resources to enable it to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner and to effectively respond to the increasing demand for technical assistance, in close coordination with partner countries and all other relevant stakeholders within the United Nations system and outside, at the national, regional and international levels.